

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-13 AID-05 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-09 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /072 W

-----019007 101320Z /42

R 091115Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4612

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

MEMBASSY COTONOU 2387

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 2581

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT ELAB TO

SUBJ: TOGOLESE LONGSHOREMEN GREIVANCE SESSION

1. PRESIDENT EYADEMA--WHO HAS BEEN FEELING OUT OF SORTS SINCE AN APPRENTICE COOK FED HIM UNWASHED LETTUCE THREE WEEKS AGO-- CALLED A MEETING AT 0400 8 AUGUST TO LISTEN TO COMPLAINTS OF STRIKING LONGSHOREMEN AT LOME PORT. EYADEMA SUMMARILY FIRED TWO LONGSHOREMEN WHO TRIED TO EXPLAIN WHY THEY CALLED 27 JULY WILDCAT STRIKE AND THEN READ EARLY MORNING RIOT ACT TO REMAINING BRETHEREN.

2. EYADEMA ORDERED THE LONGSHOREMEN BACK TO WORK IMMEDIATELY AND WARNED THEY WOULD ALL BE FIRED IF THEY ATTEMPTED TO STRIKE AGAIN. HE DISMISSED THEIR GRIEVANCE--PORT OFFICIALS HAD STARTED TO PAY THE DOCKERS ACCORDING TO TONNAGE DISCHARGED AND NOT BY THE HOUR-- AS PETTY AND MISGUIDED. EYADEMA THEN TURNED TO CIVILIAN PORT DIRECTOR AND TOLD HIM HE WOULD BE REPLACED BY TWO ARMY OFFICERS WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. PRESIDENT DECLARED HIS UNHAPPINESS WITH LONG PERIODS FREIGHTERS OCCASIONALLY SPEND WAITING OFFSHORE, AND DECREED THAT HENCEFORTH ALL SHIPS ENTERING PORT WOULD BE OFFLOADED WITHIN FOUR DAYS.

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3. BY MID-MEETING, MOST LONGSHOREMEN REALIZED THAT PERHAPS THE WILDCAT STRIKE WAS A BAD IDEA. AS TOGOLESE DAWN BROKE OVER LOME, EYADEMA HIT THEM WITH A SLEDGEHAMMER PROMISE: UNLESS LONGSHOREMEN HALTED PETTY THIEVERY AT PORT, PRESIDENT WOULD DRAW UP DECREE AUTHORIZING AMPUTATION OF HANDS OF DOCKERS CAUGHT STEALING. WHEN SOMEONE IN AUDIENCE POINTED OUT THAT CUSTOMS OFFICIALS OFTEN ABET DISHONEST PORTWORKERS, EYADEMA ORDERED THAT ALL CUSTOMS,

POLICE AND GENDARMES WORKING AT PORT BE REPLACED.

4. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY DOUBTS EYADEMA WILL FOLLOW THROUGH ON HIS PLEDGE TO AMPUTATE HANDS, BUT LONGSHOREMEN PROBABLY HARBOR NO SUCH DOUBTS. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE MANY MORE PORT STRIKES IN COMING MONTHS. YOUNG

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: LONGSHOREMEN
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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